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# PERKINS' FLOWER GARDENS

## ROCK GARDEN EDITION

North St. Paul, Minn.

APRIL, 1933

No. 2

### How to Plant Them

## Our Rock Gardens

### What to Plant

"MOTHER!" cried twelve year old Johnny as he rushed into the house after school one day last June, "I have been over at Billy's house and he showed me their pretty Rock Garden on the bank sloping down toward the river. It was very pretty, couldn't we have one in our back yard. Billy's papa made their's and he used those funny stones with holes in them like we find down by the river. Many of the flowers are in blossom and they look so nice beside the stones. Billy showed me some small white flowers which he called Rock Cress, and a lot of Sedums that he said would bloom later on. And they had a lot of the pink and white Creeping Phlox like ours at the end of the border. In the little pool they had six goldfish."

"Yes," said Johnny's mother at the first opportunity she had to speak, "Papa and I were talking about having a Rock Garden the other evening after you had gone to bed. I am glad you want one. Let's go out into the yard and see if we can decide where would be the best place to build a Rock Garden."

That evening, in Johnny's mind at least, the new Rock Garden was well under way, and he thought about the fun he would have helping to choose the plants when they came to our nursery.

Rock Gardening is a useful, pleasing and fascinating variation from the ordinary type of gardening and is, today, very popular. It offers unlimited opportunities for testing the skill of the professional and the amateur gardener. Some Rock Garden plants are very easy to grow, while others are very exacting in their requirements and it may take us several years to learn how to be successful with them. All Rock Gardens are more or less artificial and there are nearly as many ideas of what a Rock Garden should be as there are gardeners. Many of the gardens being made today fail to accomplish the true purpose of a Rock Garden, the furnishing of a comfortable home for a plant taken out of its natural environment.

I believe the greatest value of the Rock Garden lies in the fact that the search for suitable plants has brought to our attention hundreds of interesting and useful plants.

#### All May Grow Rock Garden Plants

You know that many of the Rock Garden Plants may be grown successfully in the ordinary garden; and if for any reason it would be undesirable for you to build a Rock Garden in your yard, you may still enjoy Rock Garden plants. I like this statement by A. J. Macself: "Let us be content to grow alpine (rock) plants for the enjoyment of their beauty and charm, and when we make a rockery let it be with no delusion that we are making a mountain."

#### Essentials for a Rock Garden

Essentials for the construction of a Rock Garden may be given but no hard and fast rules can be laid down, which would apply to every condition. There is a vast difference between making a rock garden covering a few square feet and one covering several acres; or between one situated on a hillside or one on level ground; and whether you want to spend little or much money.

A rock or alpine plant is generally one that naturally grows on a mountain and this is the type of environment that we are endeavoring to imitate when building a rockery. Three factors are absolutely essential for a successful Rock Garden: 1. Good drainage; 2. An open sunny situation, away from trees that permit water to drip on the plants; 3. A free circulation of air but not a wind-swept place. A few varieties of alpine plants also require an abundance of water underground but few people care to go to the expense of constructing a moraine.

#### Location of the Rock Garden

Taking all things into consideration, a hill sloping toward the north would be the ideal situation for a Rock Garden, affording ample drainage, light and air. On level ground two methods are possible, the building of an irregularly shaped mound, the height depending upon the size of the garden and other surroundings, or an excavation may be made and the rockery built in it. The soil taken out may be thrown up on the sides to help make the excavation larger. Be sure that there is a means for carrying away all surplus water if the latter method is adopted.

When possible the Rock Garden should be kept away from the formal garden because in a sense it is a wild garden. It should never be placed in the front yard.

It is seldom that a building makes a good background for a Rockery, nor is it desirable, as a rule, to place it around or amongst trees. However the chief function of a Rock Garden is to give pleasure to its owner, and this may often be accomplished regardless of whether all technical details are

carried out. I know of a Rockery built next to a house and in shade, which gives its owners a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction although they are limited to the use of a few kinds of plants that will grow in such a trying situation.

#### Rocks for the Rockery

The purpose of the rocks in a Rockery is to provide a suitable home for the type of alpine plant we desire to grow. The rocks tend to keep the roots of the plant cool and free from excess moisture. They may also serve to keep excess moisture from accumulating around the crown of the plant during the winter and rainy weather.

Rocks of a porous nature such as limestone or sandstone (if not too soft) are preferable as they tend to hold moisture and give it off gradually. Granite, marble and our ordinary cobble stones are non-porous and are not recommended, although they may be used if no other kinds are available.

The rocks selected for a Rock Garden should vary in size. If only one size were chosen it would give a monotonous effect. The size of the rocks would depend upon the size of your garden. Some of our landscape artists say that no rock under fifty pounds should be selected. We must avoid getting too many rocks in our gardens. Every rock must have a purpose.

(Continued on Page Four)



PERKINS' FLOWER GARDENS PERKINS' PERENNIAL PLANTS  
PUBLISHED BY PERKINS BROTHERS FOR THE ROCK GARDEN

Post Office Address: NORTH ST. PAUL, MINN., R. R. 1

Nursery: STILLWATER ROAD (Highway 45) One Mile from St. Paul  
TELEPHONE TOWER 4424

APRIL, 1933

OUR POLICY: The Golden Rule

1. To give full value in exchange for your money.
2. To sell you only what will be suitable in your garden. Many plants need special situations and may not fit into your garden plan.
3. To conduct our business so as to gain your confidence.
4. To treat you as we would like to be treated.
5. To tell you the truth concerning the hardiness, etc., of our plants.
6. No high pressure salesmanship.

OUR GUARANTEE

While we agree to correct any mistakes made by us in filling your orders, and expect all our plants to give satisfaction if handled properly; due to many causes beyond our control we cannot guarantee the hardiness or growth of any plant sold by us, and cannot be held responsible for a sum greater than the original purchase price.

OUR NURSERY IS STATE INSPECTED

For your protection our nursery is inspected each year by the State Nursery Inspection Department. All plants suspected of having dangerous insects or diseases must be destroyed before a certificate is granted to us.

TERMS OF SALE

Cash with orders from unknown parties or satisfactory reference. When orders amount to \$2.00 or more we pay postage charges if order is made up at price of single plants. We do not pay postage at dozen and hundred prices.

PLANT QUALITY

Our first price list was published in 1925. From that time until now we have been endeavoring to improve the quality of our plants. You may get a good concept of the quality of plants by noting the following details: General appearance of the plant as to size, vigor, healthfulness, greenness of foliage, firmness of the plant tissues. Note also how long the plant has been dug and in storage.

You are invited to visit our nursery and to inspect the quality of our plants.

PERKINS' NURSERY

Is located on State Highway 45 from St. Paul to Lake Elmo and Stillwater. We are on that part of the highway known as Stillwater Road, about one mile from St. Paul's east city limits.

THE GARDENER

*I'm a gard'ner this year  
Tho' I never was before;  
I hoe and I rake  
'Till my muscles are all sore,  
But when I am gardening,  
I'm as happy as can be  
For I'm a member of a club  
(garden) you see.*

A verse from my garden scrap book of 1919 (Author unknown).

Our edition of Flower Gardens listing many choice varieties of Annuals will be mailed to you about May 1.

AGROSTEMMA CORONARIA (Rose of Heaven)—Plants with a tuft of silvery white, thick leaves from which arise stiff stems bearing blood red flowers. Especially good for the color of its foliage. 2 year plants, each 20 cents; 1 year seedlings, 10 cents.

ALYSSUM; *Argentum*—Shrubby growth, leaves dark green above, silvery beneath. Small yellow flowers all summer. Should be cut back each year. 2 year, each 20 cents; 1 year seedlings, 10 cents.

—*Rostratum*—Similar to above.

—*Saxatile* (Basket of Gold)—Bright yellow flowers early in spring. Each 15 cents.

ANCHUSA; *Myosotidiflora*—A dwarf form of Anchusa, which during May and June bears many small blue forgetmenot-like flowers. Each 20 cents.

AQUILEGIA; *Coerulea* (Rocky Mountain Blue Columbine)—Two year plants. Each 25 cents.

—*Fabellata*—A Japanese species, with thick leaves and ivory-white flowers. Each 25 cents.

ARABIS; *Alpina* (White Rock Cress)—Dense masses of pure white flowers in early spring. Leaves slightly grayish. Cut back after flowering. Clumps, each 20 cents; 12 for \$2.00.

Perkins' Special Rock Garden Collection

25 PLANTS FOR \$3.75

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Anchusa Myosotidiflora | 3 Lysimachia Nummularia |
| 2 Arabis Alpina          | 3 Phlox Subulata        |
| 3 Armeria Lauceana       | 2 Saponaria             |
| 2 Campanula Rotundifolia | 3 Sedum Spurium         |
| 3 Dianthus Deltoides     | 3 Sedum Kamschaticum    |

REGULAR PRICE \$4.25

—*Alpina Rosea*—A pink form of above, grown from seed, therefore many plants do not have pink flowers but white. Prices the same.

ARENARIA; *Montana* (Sandwort)—Fine leaved plants having white flowers in May. Each 20 cents.

ARMERIA LAUCHEANA (Sea Pink)—A tufted plant with grasslike leaves and bright rosy flowers all summer. Plant in full sun. 20 cents each; 12 for \$2.00.

ASTER; *Alpina, Goliath* (Early Aster)—A large early flowering single aster. Color medium shade of blue. Two year plants, each 20 cents; 1 year seedlings, each 10 cents.

AUBRIETIA; *Deltoides*—(Purple Rock Cress)—Similar to Arabis Alpina except the flowers are lavender in color. Each 20 cents; 12 for \$2.00.

—*Eyri*—Rosy-lilac flowers. Each 20 cents.

CALAMINTHA; *Alpina*—(Calamint)—A pretty little rock plant with many rich purple flowers. Each 20 cents.

CAMPANULA; *Carpatica* (Harebell)—A dwarf, graceful bellflower. Very hardy. Suited for shade. The flowers are borne on slender stems. Blooms all summer. Blue or white. Clumps, each 20 cents; 12 for \$2.00.

—*Rotundifolia* (Blue Bells of Scotland)—Similar to the above in general habit. Flowers smaller but more numerous. Clumps, each 20 cents; 12 for \$2.00.

CATANANCHE; *Caerulea* (Love Plant)—August-September. Deep blue flowers similar to single asters. When touched the flowers feel like straw flowers. Clumps, each 20 cents; 1 year seedlings, 10 cents.

CERASTIUM; *Tomentosum* (Snow-in-Summer)—A low growing plant with silvery foliage and many small white flowers in June. Prefers full sun. Each 20 cents.

DIANTHUS; *Plumarius*—Hardy Garden Pinks, mixed colors. Each 15 cents; 12 for \$1.50.

—*Spring Beauty*—A strain of garden pinks containing double and single flower plants. Each 20 cents.

—*Deltoides* (Maiden Pink)—Dark green foliage. Flowers bright pink. Sometimes blooms entire season. Clumps, each 20 cents.

DELPHINIUM; *Chinese Type*—This type of Delphinium may be used in the Rock Garden if the first flowering stem is removed. Removing the first flowering stem keeps the plant low. Each 15 cents.

—*Tom Thumb*—Ultramarine blue. A low growing variety of Chinese type. Each 15 cents; 12 for \$1.50.

ERYSIMUM; *Pulchellum* (Rock Wallflower)—A neat appearing, mat-like plant producing many sulphur-yellow flowers. Each 20 cents.

GYPHOPHILA; *Repens* (Creeping Baby's Breath)—A beautiful creeping plant with many small white flowers in July. Two year plants, each 20 cents; 12 for \$2.00; 1 year seedlings, each 10 cents.

## PERKINS' FLOWER GARDENS

HELIANTHEMUM; *Mutabile* (Rock Rose)—A shrubby appearing plant, foliage dark green, flowers similar to wild rose but much smaller. Each 25 cents; small plants, each 10 cents.

HEUCHERA; *Sanguinea* (Coral Bells)—A cluster of heart-shaped leaves, from which arise many slender stems bearing crimson, bell-shaped flowers. Each 30 cents.

LINARIA; *Alpina*—A graceful little plant for the rockery. Purple, snapdragon-like flowers. Each 20 cents.

### Perkins' Annuals for the Rock Garden

Most of our perennial plants suitable for the rock garden flower in the spring, and in order to have some color at all times the following annuals may be used successfully:

AGERATUM—Variety Little Blue Star.  
SWEET ALYSSUM—Little Gem.  
LOBELIA—Crystal Palace, dark blue.  
LOBELIA—Basket. Dark blue.  
PETUNIA—Rosy Morn (only a few).  
CINERARIA MARATIMA—Dusty Miller.

} 20c per Dozen

COLEUS—In variety.  
SANTOLINA—A gray foliage plant. Very pretty. } 10c Each

STRAWBERRY GERANIUM—Colored foliage. Each 20 cents.

ACHYRANTHES—Red foliage. Each 15 cents.

LYCHNIS; *Alpina*—A low-growing form of Lychnis with pink flowers. Each 20 cents.

LYSIMACHIA; *Nummularia* (Creeping Jenny)—A rapidly growing creeper, with shiny leaves and yellow flowers. Will grow in shade and wet places. Clumps, each 20 cents; 12 for \$2.00.

MYOSOTIS; *Alpestris* (Forgetmenot)—Suitable for shady and moist places. Blooms all summer. Each 20 cents; 12 for \$2.00.

NEPETA; *Mussini* (Catnip)—Foliage grayish, flowers lavender, a strong grower, but it may be clipped back at any time. Each 20 cents.

PAPAVER; *Nudicaule* (Iceland Poppy)—A short lived perennial. Very fine for its bright cup-shaped orange or yellow flowers. Do not place in too dry a situation. Each 15 cents.

PHLOX; *Subulata* (Creeping Phlox)—One of the best low growing plants for the rockery or the border. It makes a fine showing when planted in masses. Blooms in early spring. Colors, rose, white, lilac. Each 15 cents; 12 for \$1.50.

—*Divaricata*—A native early blooming species of phlox. Flowers lilac. Also suitable for a ground cover. Each 20 cents; 12 for \$2.00.

—*Amoena*—A dwarf phlox with bright pink flowers. Each 20 cents.

SAPONARIA; *Ocymoides* (Soapwort)—A splendid plant for the rock garden or the border. Comes into flower after the creeping phlox. Flowers pink. Clumps, each 20 cents; 12 for \$2.00.

SEDUM—Sedums are the principal rock garden plants in America. They vary much in height, color and type of foliage, even within a variety. Most of them prefer a sunny situation. Much confusion exists in the names of sedums, therefore it is best to see the plants before buying them.

—*Acre* (Goldenmoss)—One of the best and most popular Sedums. Does best in a poor soil. Flowers yellow.

—*Album*—A rapid grower. Flowers white.

—*Cristata*—Top of the branch forms a crest similar to a cockscomb. Flowers yellow.

—*Dasyphyllum*—Foliage a blue gray.

—*Ewersi*—A thick, large, smooth leaved variety. Leaves gray-blue. Flowers pink in September and October.

—*Glaucum*—A compact blue-green Sedum. Flowers white.

—*Ibericum*—Similar to *Stolonifera*. Flowers pink.

—*Kamschaticum*—Leaves green, flowers yellow.

—*Lydiium*—A neat, compact Sedum. Foliage light green with a touch of red.

—*Oregon*—Foliage dark green. Quite different from the other types of Sedum.

—*Reflexum*—Foliage similar to small spruce branches. Flowers yellow.

—*Sarmentosum*—A rapidly growing creeping Sedum. Foliage yellowish-green.

—*Sieboldi*—Round succulent foliage. Margin of leaves pinkish. Pink flowers in September. Each 25 cents.

—*Spurium*—Similar in type to *Stolonifera*. Foliage has a red tinge getting darker in the fall. Flowers red.

—*Stolonifera*—Leaves roundish, green. Flowers pink.

—*Mexicanum*—Foliage a yellow-green. Hardiness uncertain.

PRICES: ALL SEDUMS EXCEPT SIEBOLDI, EACH 15 CENTS; EIGHT FOR \$1.00.

TALL SEDUMS—See General List of Perennials.

SILENE; *Sbafta* (Autumn Catchfly)—Masses of bright pink flowers in late summer and autumn. Each 20 cents.

SEMPERVIVUM (Houseleek; Hardy Hen and Chickens).

—*Arachnoideum*—The top of the rosette has a cobweblike covering. Each 20 cents.

—*Globiferum*—Rosettes 2-3 inches in diameter. Leaves tipped brown. Each 15 cents.

—*Tectorium*—The common hardy sempervivum. Each 15 cents.

THALICTRUM; *Adiantifolium*—A hardy thalictrum with leaves similar to maiden hair fern. Flowers white. In small rock garden the flower stems should be removed and the plant grown for its foliage only. Each 20 cents; 12 for \$2.00.

THYMUS; *Coccineum*—A beautiful creeping perennial for the rock garden. Flowers crimson. Each 20 cents.

TUNICA; *Saxifraga*—A grasslike plant with small pink flowers. Each 20 cents.

VERONICA; *Teucrium*—A dwarf spreading veronica with blue flowers. Each 20 cents.

—*Incana*—Woolly leaved veronica. Each 20 cents.

—*Repens*—Creeping Veronica. Suitable for moist places; will grow in moderately dry situations. Each 20 cents.

PRICES: SMALL PLANTS OF V. TEUCRIUM AND V. AMETHYSTINA, EACH 15 CENTS.

YUCCA; *Glaucum* (Adam's Needle or Mexican Sword Plant)—A plant with sword-like leaves. Five year old plants. Special, 75 cents to \$1.00.

### Perkins' Selected List of Hardy Plants

*The problem of the edging to your Border  
easily solved.*

ARABIS ALPINA—Masses of white flowers early in the spring. Grayish tinge to the foliage keeps it attractive all season.

ARMERIA LAUCHEANA—Pink flowers nearly all summer.

CAMPANULA CARPATIC and ROTUNDIFOLIA—Two types of blue-bells. Suitable for that shady spot. Blooms all summer.

CERASTIUM TOMENTOSUM—Masses of silvery white foliage. Covered with snow white flowers in June.

DIANTHUS (Garden Pinks)—Flowering period may not be so long but masses of the plant offer a change from the regular greens.

DIANTHUS DELTOIDES—Dark green foliage with dark pink flowers. Sometimes blooms all summer.

LYSIMACHIA NUMMULARIA—A creeping plant with shiny yellowish-green leaves and many yellow flowers. Will grow in wet or shady places.

MYOSOTIS, FORGETMENOTS—Fine for the shady corners. Our strain blooms all summer.

PHLOX SUBULATA—Rose, white or lilac. Gives gorgeous displays of color during May and June.

SAPONARIA OCYMOIDES—Another plant that seems to over exert itself in making a big show of color, just after the phlox subulata is passed.

SEDUM ACRE—Masses of yellow flowers in summer.

SEDUM GLAUCUM—Gray-blue foliage.

SEDUM LYDIUM—Attractive green foliage with a tinge of red.

SEDUM SPURIUM—Besides its masses of red flowers the foliage of this sedum has a reddish tinge which becomes more pronounced during cool weather.

SEDUM IBERIUM—Masses of pink flowers.

THYMUS COCCINEUM—A fine leaved carpeting plant with crimson flowers.

VERONICA TEUCRIUM—A creeping speedwell with blue flowers.

It pays to prepare the garden soil thoroughly. Press the soil firmly against the roots of plants when transplanting them.

PERKINS' FLOWER GARDENS

Selection of Perennials for a Cut Flower Border

WILL GIVE FLOWERS ALL SEASON

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 Delphinium, English Hybrids | 2 Hardy Asters, Hauserii  |
| 3 Delphinium Belladonna       | 3 Hardy Asters, Blue Gem  |
| 2 Coreopsis                   | 2 Boltonia Pink           |
| 2 Heliopsis                   | 2 Boltonia White          |
| 3 Gaillardia                  | 3 Hardy Pinks             |
| 3 Baby's Breath (single)      | 6 Aquilegia, Long Spurred |
| 2 Blue Corn Flowers           | 6 Pyrethrum Hybridum      |
| 2 Pink Corn Flowers           | 6 Sweet William           |
| 2 Yellow Corn Flowers         | 3 Veronica Spicata        |
| 6 Shasta (Alaska) Daisy       | 2 Chinese Lantern         |
| 3 Hartje & Elder Daisy        |                           |

66 PLANTS, REGULAR VALUE \$12.55.

Entire Collection, Special \$9.75

With addition of a few Annuals, these plants will fill a garden 20 feet by 10 feet in size.

We will be glad to send a copy of this little paper to your friends if you will send us their names and addresses.

A Few of Perkins' New and Choice Annuals

(COMPLETE LIST WILL BE SENT ABOUT MAY 1)

- MARIGOLD (Guinea Gold)—All Double Orange.
- SUTTON'S SNAPDRAGONS—Choice varieties.
- MAJESTIC SNAPDRAGONS—A new English strain of intermediate, large flowered snapdragons.
- PETUNIAS—Heavenly Blue, Cockatoo, California Giants, Theodora.
- LOBELIA—Sutton's Cambridge blue.
- AGERATUMS—Little Blue Star, Blue cap.
- VERBENA—Dorothy Thompson.
- VIOLA—Apricot.

Be sure you try some of our new varieties in your garden this year.

OUR ROCK GARDENS

(Continued from Page One)

Construction of the Rock Garden

If the situation chosen for our Rockery is a hillside we will not need to provide artificial drainage, but when the ground is level and the soil heavy it will be necessary to place some stones and gravel in the bottom of the mound.

In placing the stones start at the bottom and gradually work upward, avoiding any set form or regularity of placement. In a large garden provide for necessary paths and plan for convenience in caring for your plants. Every rock should be set firmly, and tilted backwards. Place the stones in a flat position and never so that they look like a lot of dogs' teeth set in the ground. As a rule bury each stone about one third its size. We want our Rockery to appear as having been established a long time. To avoid getting too many stones in your garden have every stone used for a definite purpose,

Special Perennial Offers

For 99c

- 2 GAILLARDIA (1 year)
- 2 COREOPSIS
- 2 LONG SPURRED AGUILEGIA
- 2 SWEET WILLIAM

Regular Price \$1.40

For \$1.39

- 1 WREXHAM DELPHINIUM...
- 1 BLACKMORE & LANGDON DELPHINIUM
- 1 INDIGO BLUE DELPHINIUM
- 1 IMPROVED BELLADONNA (light blue) DELPHINIUM
- 1 TOM THUMB (Ultramarine Blue) DELPHINIUM

Special at \$1.99

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 GAILLARDIA (1 year) | 2 AQUILEGIA                 |
| 2 EARLY SHASTA DAISY  | 3 PHLOX, 1 White, 2 Colored |
| 3 BOLTONIA            |                             |

to hold earth in place, to form a pocket or crevice. The spaces left for planting should vary in size. For rapid growing plants as Phlox subulata and some of the Sedums we need larger spaces than we do for plants like Armeria Lauchena. Do not stop the rock work abruptly at the edge of the Rock Garden but set a few rocks here and there around the garden to give a more natural appearance. A pool and running water in connection with a rockery adds beauty and interest but is not essential.

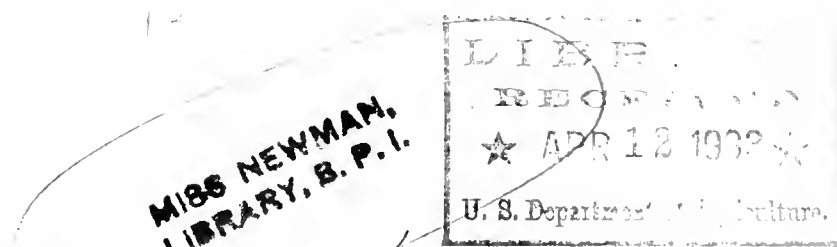
The newly made Rock Garden should be allowed to stand a week or more before planting to permit the ground to settle. The fall is the best season in which to build a Rockery.

Planting and Care

Very hardy early blooming plants having a tap root, like the Alyssums are best planted in the fall, but in general spring planting is preferable in our severe climate. This permits the plants to become well established before fall. To get variation arrange to have rather large masses of some varieties and, have a few tall growing plants as Verbascum or Yucca.

After care of the Rock Garden consists of keeping the weeds down, a little cultivation, removing of dead leaves and flowers, and the cutting back of plants after blooming to prevent a straggling growth. It is often desirable to place a layer of crushed stone around the crowns of plants which resent an excess of moisture. During an excessively dry period it may be desirable to give the garden an occasional good watering.

PERKINS BROTHERS  
Hardy and Annual Flowering Plants  
NORTH ST. PAUL, MINN.  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED.



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